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Nineteenth executive session
Geneva, 15 December 1998

SYNOPTIC RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT ITS NINETEENTH EXECUTIVE SESSION

(15 December 1998)

Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat */

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. The Board adopted the provisional agenda for its nineteenth executive session (TD/B/EX(19)/1), as orally amended by the President. (For the agenda as adopted, see annex I.)

Item 2: Draft provisional agenda for UNCTAD X

2. The Board decided that, since further time was needed to reach agreement in ongoing informal consultations, the draft provisional agenda for UNCTAD X would be taken up at the next executive session of the Board or in the monthly consultations of the President of the Board.

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*/ Pending the distribution of the final report of the Trade and Development Board on its nineteenth executive session (to be issued in TD/B/EX(19)/3), the secretariat is circulating this synoptic record of the nineteenth executive session for the information of delegations and other users. The final report will contain the summaries of statements made on the various items.

Item 3: Review of the functioning of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

3. The Board took note of the oral report of the Vice-President of the Board (Uganda), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the informal consultations on the functioning of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts; decided to extend the Vice-President's mandate in order to allow the resumption of consultations in March 1999; and requested the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting to conduct a brief review of the functioning of the Group with a view to providing the consultations with substantive inputs or expert views.

Item 4: Reports of subsidiary bodies of the Board

(a) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its thirty-second session

4. The Board took note of the oral report of the Chairman of the Working Party and agreed to his recommendation to convene consultations to address outstanding issues relating to partial cost recovery for selected UNCTAD technical cooperation programmes, the rolling three-year technical cooperation plan for 1999-2001, and the in-depth evaluation of the Trade Point programme. The consultations would be convened on 14-15 January 1999, as a result of which the thirty-third session of the Working Party would be rescheduled to 25-29 January 1999. The twentieth executive session of the Board would be held on 5 February 1999.

(b) Reports of the Commissions on their third sessions: (i) report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on its third session (TD/B/45/10-TD/B/COM.1/22); (ii) report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues on its third session (TD/B/45/9-TD/B/COM.2/15); (iii) report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on its third session (TD/B/COM.3/L.9 and Add.1 and TD/B/COM.3/L.11)

5. The Board took note of the reports of the Commissions on their third sessions and endorsed the Commissions' agreed conclusions.

(c) Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

6. The Board took note of the oral report of the Chairman of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO at its thirty-first session (Morocco), as well as of the action taken by the General Assembly on administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre.

Item 5: Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

7. The Board approved the application of the South Centre to be designated under rule 76 of the rules of procedure to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, the Board and its subsidiary organs. (For information on the South Centre, see document TD/B/EX(18)/R.3.)

(b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

8. The Board approved the applications of three non-governmental organizations for inclusion in the list provided for in rule 77 of the Board's rules of procedure and decided, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Bureau, to classify them as follows:

General category

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) (TD/B/EX(19)/R.4);

Special category

Advanced Networked Cities and Regions Association (ANCARA) (TD/B/EX(19)/R.1), to participate in the work of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development;

International Council of Nurses (ICN) (TD/B/EX(19)/R.2), to participate in the work of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities.

9. The Board was also informed that, in conformity with the provisions of Board decision 43 (VII), sections III and IV, and after consultation with the Government concerned (India), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had included the All India Association of Industries in the register of national non-governmental organizations. (For information on this organization, see document TD/B/EX(19)/L.1).

10. The Board further approved the request of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), a non-governmental organization which had been granted status in the special category at the sixteenth executive session of the Board, to be reclassified in the general category, in accordance with paragraph 12 (a) of Board decision 43 (VII).

Item 6: Other business

Approval of the membership of the Working Party for 1999

11. The Board approved the membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1999, as follows: Brazil; Bulgaria; China; Egypt; Ethiopia; France; Guatemala; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kenya; Malaysia; Netherlands; Philippines; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Turkey; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uruguay.

Item 7: Report of the Board on its nineteenth executive session

12. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report on its nineteenth executive session under the authority of the President.

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Draft provisional agenda for UNCTAD X

3. Review of the functioning of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

4. Reports of subsidiary bodies of the Board:

   (a) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its thirty-second session

   (b) Reports of the Commissions on their third sessions:

      (i) Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on its third session

      (ii) Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues on its third session

      (iii) Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on its third session

   (c) Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

5. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

   (b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

6. Other business

   - Approval of the membership of the Working Party for 1999

7. Report of the Board on its nineteenth executive session